ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

Avian Biology, Volume II. Edited by Donald S. Farner and James R. King. Academic Press, New York and London, 1972:xxiii + 612 pp., many diagrams, charts, and photographs. $34.00.—The second volume of this series covers several anatomical and physiological systems with the same high standards established in the initial volume. Topics covered are the integument, patterns of molt, control of molt, the blood vascular, respiratory, digestive, and excretory systems, nutrition, and intermediary metabolism. A sampling of these chapters shows that the individual authors and editors have maintained the general policy of presenting a "balanced account of avian biology at the beginning of the 1970's." Systematic and nomenclatural matters remain under the editorship of Kenneth Parkes and follow the same standards established in volume one.

The chapters are not designed to be encyclopedic treatments of each subject, but rather a discussion of important topics plus an introduction and guide to the literature. I examined each chapter with particular inquiries in mind, and felt that in most cases answers could be found in the cited references—if they were not available in the text itself. Areas of ignorance, however, are not always clearly pointed out. The chapters on nutrition and on intermediary metabolism are essentially treatises on the domestic chicken. This reflects the state of our knowledge of these aspects of avian biology and hopefully will stimulate comparative investigations of them. Nevertheless, these chapters are of less direct usefulness to ornithologists than the other chapters.

Peter Stettenheim's excellent chapter on the integument is overshadowed by the superb monograph, previously written by Lucas and Stettenheim on the same subject (cited in the bibliography). The discussion of the avian lung/air sac system and mechanism of breathing must be reassessed in light of the recent monograph on this subject by H-R. Duncker (Ergebn. Anat. Entwickl., 45, 1971); unfortunately Duncker's papers appeared too late to be included in the bibliography.

I would like to emphasize the value of this volume in obtaining information and literature references on subjects that seem unrelated to the chapter titles. I found a good discussion of Herbst's corpuscles and a reference to staining methods for elastic fibers, both topics of immediate interest to me, in unexpected places. Hence, this book should be perused carefully, even if one is not interested at the moment in the subject matter of the individual chapters.

The main handicap of this volume is its cost, which may well place it beyond the reach of many ornithologists. Yet, *Avian Biology* will be a valuable reference work for any serious student of birds; in spite of the expense of the entire set, I recommend strongly that it be given high priority in the book budget of every ornithologist.—Walter J. Bock.

Avifauna of the Eastern Highlands of New Guinea. By Jared M. Diamond. Publications of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, No. 12, Cambridge, Mass. 1972: vii + 438 pp., 42 figs., 19 tables, and 4 maps. $15.00. (Obtainable from the Nuttall Ornithological Club, c/o Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard Univ., Cambridge, Mass. 02138.)—This monograph is one of the most important contributions to knowledge of New Guinean birds in the past several decades. Although incorporating data from avifaunal papers published on the eastern highlands since the World War II, the treatise